

NEED FOR A COMMISSION ON THE CONQUEST OF CANCER AS A  
NATIONAL GOAL BY 1976

The present research effort in cancer has shown that 4 or 5 minor forms of cancer can be successfully treated with drugs. However, against the forms of cancer which cause the largest number of deaths, drugs cause only temporary remissions. 300,000 Americans still die of this disease each year.

No large mission or goal-directed effort, supported with adequate funds has ever been organized against these diseases. (Cancer is really a group of diseases.)

However, in the atomic sphere, and in outer space when a national goal was set and adequately funded, the United States has been victorious, and has landed men on the moon. The same talents for organization, goal-directed, as have been used in outer space planning and financing should be applied to cancer.

Such authorities as Dr. Sidney Farber, the president of the American Cancer Society; Dr. R. Lee Clark of the M. D. Anderson Institute for Cancer Research in Houston; and Dr. Robert J. Huebner of the National Cancer Institute, among others, state the answers to cancer can be found if the effort is well planned in stages and sufficiently well financed. There are advances in the fields of viruses, drugs and other areas which make them feel sure that the final answers can be developed.

President Nixon and Secretary Finch should appoint a Commission on the Conquest of Cancer which would include space scientists, industrialists, administrators, planners, and cancer research specialists. A Commission should include men such as Mr. Laurance S. Rockefeller; Mr. Thomas J. Watson, Jr., of the International Business Machines Company; Dr. R. Lee Clark of the M. D. Anderson Institute for Cancer Research in Houston; Dr. Sidney Farber of the Children's Cancer Research Hospital in Boston; Dr. Sol Spiegelman of the Institute for Cancer Research in New York; Dr. Arthur Kornberg of the Stanford University School of Medicine; Dr. Wendell M. Stanley, Virus Laboratory, University of California in Berkeley; Dr. Joshua Lederberg of Stanford University; Dr. Cecil L. Wittson of the University of Nebraska Medical Center; Dr. Solomon Garb of the University of Missouri; Mr. Walter Reuther, head of the UAW; Mr. Emerson Foote, former head of McCann-Erickson, and others, with suitable staff. They should be entrusted to outline the possibilities for the conquest of cancer for the Congress of the United States at whatever cost.

Whatever the cost, which would rise as plans developed, the answer would save 300,000 lives each year -- ten times more than have died in the entire Vietnamese effort in eight years.

The present effort in cancer research from all sources is somewhat over 200 million dollars, compared with about 5 billion dollars appropriated for the exploration of outer space. Exploration of cancer -- inner space -- can be successful and hundreds of thousands of lives saved each year. This saving of lives will add to the gross national product and many times pay for the total expenditures. Human agony and tragedy can be reduced and mankind will be in

debt to the United States.

An average of three additional years of life for these 300,000 annual victims of cancer could be estimated to add at least three billion dollars to the gross national product through increased earnings and over \$450 million in additional Federal income tax revenue.

Diseases which were considered the "will of God!" have been conquered in our time. Tuberculosis deaths have declined nearly 90% since 1946 due to drugs, and polio is almost non-existent due to vaccines.

Now is the time to make a maximum effort against cancer through a Presidential Commission for the Conquest of Cancer.

## SUGGESTED ADVISORY COMMISSION ON THE CONQUEST OF CANCER

Laurance S. Rockefeller, President, Memorial Hospital, New York

Frank A. Lindsay, President of Itek Corporation. (Was chairman  
of President Nixon's Task Force on Science during campaign)

Dr. Sidney Farber, President, American Cancer Society, Boston

General James Gavin, Chairman of the Board, Arthur D. Little, Inc.,  
Boston

Dr. R. Lee Clark, Director, M. D. Anderson Institute, Houston

General Alfred M. Gruenther, Former President, American  
Red Cross, Washington, D. C. (Member, President's  
Commission on Heart Disease, Cancer and Stroke)

Dr. Arthur Kornberg, Chairman, Department of Biochemistry,  
Stanford University School of Medicine

Walter Reuther, President, United Auto Workers, Detroit

Dr. Joshua Lederberg, Professor of Genetics, Stanford University  
School of Medicine

Leonard Goldenson, President, American Broadcasting Company,  
New York. (Trustee, Children's Cancer Research Foundation,  
Boston)

Dr. Wendell M. Stanley, Virus Laboratory, University of  
California, Berkeley

Emerson Foote, Chairman, Campaign to Check the Population  
Explosion, New York. (Former Chairman, National Inter-  
agency Council on Smoking and Health)

Dr. Sol Spiegelman, Institute of Cancer Research, Columbia  
University College of Physicians and Surgeons, New York

Jay Stratton, Chairman, Board of Trustees, Ford Foundation,  
New York. (Former President of Massachusetts Institute of  
Technology; former Chairman of Committee on Undersea  
Research and Development)

Dr. Charles W. Mayo II, Mayo Clinic, Rochester, Minnesota

Dr. Howard A. Rusk, Contributing Editor, THE NEW YORK TIMES

Thomas J. Watson, Jr., Chairman of the Board of International Business Machines. (Member, Board of Trustees, Sloan-Kettering Institute for Cancer Research, New York)

Dr. Jonas Salk, Salk Institute, La Jolla, California. (Discoverer of Salk vaccine; now interested in viral factors in cancer research)

Dr. Frederick Seitz, President of Rockefeller University, New York

Dr. James Grace, Director, Roswell Park Memorial Institute for Cancer Research, Buffalo, New York

J. B. Fisk, President, Bell Telephone Labs, Murray Hill, New Jersey

Dr. Solomon Garb, Professor of Pharmacology, University of Missouri School of Medicine, Columbia, Missouri

Emanuel R. Piore, Vice President and Chief Scientist, International Business Machines. (Member, Board of Trustees, Sloan-Kettering Institute for Cancer Research, New York)

Dr. Cecil L. Wittson, President, University of Nebraska Medical Center, Omaha

Dr. Paul B. Cornely, President, American Public Health Association, Washington, D. C.

Dr. Rashi Fein, Economist and Manpower Expert, Boston. (Formerly with Council of Economic Advisors, Brookings Institute, etc.)

#### SUGGESTED STAFF

Administrative Director	Stephen J. Ackerman, Associate Director, Rehabilitation Services Administration; Lawyer. (Former staff director, President's Commission on Heart Disease, Cancer and Stroke)
Writer	Horace Ogden, U.S. Public Health Service. (Former chief writer, President's Commission on Heart Disease, Cancer and Stroke)